

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 17 remain in the application and have been amended hereby. Claims 2, 5, 8, 10, and 13-16 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-3, 7, 8, 13, 15, and 17 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Lee et al. in view of Floden et al.

Features of the present invention are to form a group of a plurality of users who registered in a predetermined group and enabling an information exchange among the registered users in the group. See Figs. 11 and 12 and page 28, line 21 to page 31, line 7 of the present application, for example.

Independent claims 1, 4, 7, 9, and 17 have been amended to recite these features of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Lee et al. and Floden et al. fails to show or suggest "forming a group of a plurality of users that registered in a predetermined group and transmitting information sent from a user belonging to said group to a terminal device used by another user belonging to said group."

The groups of Lee et al. described in the paragraph bridging col. 11-12 are merely databases formed in a database server for the purpose of quick access to the stored data and are unrelated to the groups of preregistered users recited in the presently

claimed invention and, because there are no features in Floden et al. that somehow could be combined with Lee et al. and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 4, 7, 9, and 17, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Lee et al. in view of Floden et al.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 4-6, 9, and 10 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Lee et al. in view of Floden et al. and further in view of Boyle et al.

The rejection of amended independent claims 4 and 9 over Lee et al. has been addressed above, and because there are no features in Boyle et al. that somehow could be combined with Lee et al. in view of Floden et al. and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 4 and 9, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Lee et al. in view of Floden et al. and further in view of Boyle et al.

Claims 14-16 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited, and it is respectfully submitted that the amendments made to the claims hereby raise no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, because the feature added to the claims relating to the group of users was originally set forth in dependent claim 2 and

because all of the features of this invention have clearly been considered by the examiner in the prosecution of this application and because the present amendments serve only to further define and emphasize the novel features of this invention.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli", is written over the printed name.

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JHM/PCF:tb